

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action of January 24, 2006 are earnestly solicited.

Claims 2, 4—13 and 15—20 remain pending in the application. No claims have been amended in this response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 5—8, 13 and 15—16, and 17—20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaplicki (U.S. 6,668,457) in view of DE 198 58 903 A2. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Czaplicki teaches a hydroform member having inner and outer tubes 12, 14 forming a cavity therebetween which is filled by a structural foam 16 which expands in the cavity between the inner and outer tubes when heat is applied. Hence, as with DE '903, Czaplicki does not teach or suggest, its inner tube to be "a generally tubular rigid body having an outer perimeter parallel to and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of the first tubular frame member" and "at least one rib...in abutting engagement with the tubular rigid body," (emphasis added) as called for in independent Claim 2, or "a rigid tube having an outer perimeter substantially mating and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of a tubular portion of the first frame member and a reinforcement structure spanning an interior void of, and in abutting engagement with, the rigid tube" (emphasis added) as called for in independent claim 17.

Therefore claim 2, and its dependent claims 5—8, 13, and 15—16, along with claim 17 and its dependent claims 18—20 are believed patentable over Schroeder et al.

and DE '903, taken alone or in combination.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaplicki, as modified by DE '903, and as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Aloe et al. (U.S. 6,047,988). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claim 4 is believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 2, from which claim 4 depends.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaplicki, as modified by DE '903, and as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Benedyk (U.S. 5,458,393). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claim 9 is believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8 and 2, from which claim 9 depends.

Claims 10—12 stand rejected under 35 U.S. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaplicki, as modified by DE '903, and as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Janotik (U.S. 5,209,541). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

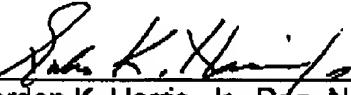
Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claims 10—12 are believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8 and 2, from which claims 10—12 depend.

Claims 2, 4—13 and 15—20 as previously presented, are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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